

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

In the Office Action mailed September 13, 2007: claims 17-26 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement; claims 17-26 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention; and claims 17-26 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP '347.

In reply to the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, rejections issued by the Examiner, claim 17 has been amended to recite that extending along each of the longitudinal edges of the tape is

a stretched fibrous member of thermoplastic resin including oriented molecular chains obtained by stretching a yet-unstretched fibrous member to provide the stretched fibrous member with a tensile strength greater than a tensile strength of the yet-unstretched fibrous member.

Support for this amendment is believed to be found on page 12, lines 3-7, page 12, lines 21-25 and page 18, lines 6-8, of the original specification, and this amendment is believed to further patentably limit the claims.

Additionally in reply to these rejections, claim 33 has been canceled and claims 34-43 have been added.

EP '347 is not believed to anticipate any of the currently presented claims. In this regard, paragraphs [0033] and [0034] of EP '347 relied upon by the Examiner do not disclose or suggest a stretched resin member that has an increased tensile strength as compared to the member in a yet-unstretched state, as now required by each of the independent claims. Specifically, the reinforcing material 23 referred to in paragraph [0034] is a synthetic resin of which the tensile strength has been improved by adding carbon filler or the like. Such a carbon filler-reinforced

synthetic resin is not subjected to stretching as is the resin member of the instant invention. Nor is such carbon filler-reinforced synthetic resin provided with an increased tensile strength through the extrusion as described in paragraph [0033] of EP '347.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 13-32 and 34-43 are allowable over EP '347.

Additionally, these claims are further believed to be patentable because EP '347 also fails to disclose that the tape-forming synthetic resin (molten resin in paragraph [0033]) and the reinforcing material 23 are similar resins by virtue of being in the same family (claims 13, 17 and 27) or by virtue of being identical resins or having principal components of identical resins (claim 34), as discussed in the July 9th response. Also, please note that carbon is not a resin, and two resins cannot be identical simply because they have carbon.

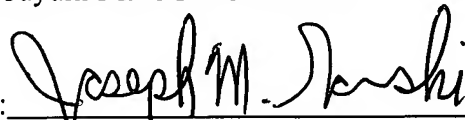
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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